



SENATE  
MAJORITY LEADER  
**KEN SIKKEMA**

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## NEWS RELEASE

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# **Sikkema Encouraged by Senators Making Tough Decisions and Enacting Budget Cuts**

*Senate majority leader notes governor is wrong about '\$3 billion in cuts'*

**Lansing** - Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema today said he is encouraged by what he is seeing taking place in the Appropriations Committee and subcommittees.

"Many senators have stepped up to the plate and made some tough decisions," said Sikkema, R-Wyoming. "It's never easy to cut budgets. This year was made even more difficult by our decision to not raise taxes, but I'm convinced it was the right decision."

Sikkema noted the governor is wrong when she says \$3 billion has been cut from the state budget since she took office. According to the nonpartisan Senate Fiscal Agency, the state's total budget has actually increased more than \$125 million since the governor took office.

"Even if we remove federal dollars and look strictly at state money, the budget has only gone down \$205 million in the past three years," Sikkema said. "The people of Michigan expect state government to live within its means because it is living on their money. To suggest we can't cut spending from a nearly \$40 billion budget is nonsense. We can cut and we will do so as long as people want us to cut rather than raise taxes to balance the budget."

The Senate Appropriations Committee is scheduled to approve all 17 budget bills this week and Sikkema said the full Senate will take action on all the budget bills next week.

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Editor's note: Please see the attached Word document for details on state appropriations from the end of Gov. John Engler's last year in office through Gov. Jennifer Granholm's first three years in office.

## STATE APPROPRIATIONS HISTORY

<u>Governor</u>	<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Total Budget**</u>
Engler	2002-03 (As of Dec. 31, 2002)	\$38.8 billion
Granholm	Executive Order 2003-3	(\$157 million)
Granholm	Supplementals	\$892 million
Granholm	2002-03 (Final)	\$39.5 billion
Granholm	2003-04	\$39.1 billion
Granholm	2004-05	\$38.9 billion

Change from last Engler budget to latest enacted Granholm budget: \$125 million

\*\* Includes all available funding sources

*Source: Senate Fiscal Agency*